

466 the project in the first year. Most of the
653 laborers were peasants, some were refugees from the flood, and still others were unemployed people in the cities. In 1952, the number of workers increased¹³ to 2,400,000. In 1953, when the project had been established on a permanent basis, the workers decreased¹⁴ to about 1,500,000. The fact that a total of more than 6,000,000 people had joined at one time or another a public project during a three year period is unheard of in Chinese history.

C. Organization of the Labor Force

466 In addition to recruited civilian workers,
708 large numbers of the People's Liberation Army
653 joined the project. They were supposed to do the harder jobs and act as model workers; in reality, they were to keep surveillance over the recruited workers.

13. Chin-pu Jih-pao [Progressive Daily], Tientsin, Aug. 3, 1952.

14. Jen-min Jih-pao [People's Daily], Sept. 16, 1955.

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Organization of the Labor Force on the Hwai River*

National Committee
of
Hwai River Harnessing

↓
Headquarters of Provincial Committee
of
Hwai River Harnessing

↓
Headquarters of Hsien Committee
of
Hwai River Harnessing

(There were five departments
under each provincial and
hsien unit)

- 1. Organization Department
- 2. Propaganda Department
- 3. Cultural Department
- 4. Recreation Department
- 5. Statistics Department

↓
Regiment (The number of regiments formed in one hsien is in proportion
to the number of recruited men in that hsien.)

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Battalion (Four battalions make a regiment.)



Company (Four companies make a battalion.)



Platoon (Four platoons make a company.)



Squad (Four squads make a platoon.)



Section (Four sections make a squad; one section consists of 17 workers.
the total number of workers in one regiment amounts to 43, 520).

* Chang Chao-feng, Chung-kung Chih-huai Nei-mu [The Inside Story of the Chinese Communist Conservation Works on the Hwai River], Hong Kong, 1953, p. 64.

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653 The above diagram suggests the military character of the huge labor force organization working on the Hwai River and how different it is from the organization of labor groups in the free world. Besides, all the responsible persons in this organization are either Party members or veterans of the Communist army.

D. Working Conditions

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653 The Hwai River Project was planned on the assumption that it would cost the Communist treasury nothing except grains to feed the millions. Recruited workers must bring their own tools, clothing, bedding, and even cooking utensils. The directive mentioned above indicated that the wages of one laborer should be calculated according to the number of cubic feet of earth he digs in one day. But in all the official reports of the Communists about the success of the Hwai River Project, nowhere is there given the amount one worker really received for his day's work. In the directive entitled "Provisions Concerning the Standard Payment of Allowance to the Water Conservation Workers during Rainy Days,"¹⁵ issued by the

15. Compilation of Laws and Regulations of the Central Government Concerning Financial and Economic Policies, Peking, March 1952, Vol. III, pp. 1084-86.